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Seventy-third year

Identical letters dated 13 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a letter from the Ministry of National Defence of Lebanon (see annex) responding to the allegations that are set out in the identical letters dated 5 February 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (S/2018/91).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 37, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Amal **Mudallali**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 13 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Letter from the Ministry of National Defence of Lebanon

1. The letter of the Permanent Representative of the Israeli enemy in New York speaks of the destabilizing actions taken by Hizbullah. Annexed to that letter were three lists of so-called Lebanese violations of the sovereignty of Israel.

2. The most significant items in the annexes are as follows:

(a) Some bird hunters were observed in Lebanese territory near the Lebanon-occupied Palestine border. The presence of those hunters, whom the Israeli enemy alleges were armed Hizbullah members who were violating Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), was noted in the liaison documents.

(b) On 28 January 2018, an Iranian official, Mr. Ibrahim Ra'isi, visited a United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) area of operation escorted by armed Hizbullah members. It should be noted that Mr. Ra'isi was in Marun al-Ra's in the company of Hasan Fadlallah, member of the Lebanese Parliament, and that his escort was not visibly carrying weapons.

(c) With regard to the visit that was conducted on 12 December 2017 by the commander of the Iraqi Asa'ib Ahl al-Haqq, Qays al-Khaz'ali, together with members of Hizbullah, it should be noted that this person's name was circulated.

3. After reviewing the Israeli letter and comparing it against documents in the army's possession that were issued by UNIFIL Command, we should like to note the following:

(a) The Lebanese Army was not informed (by UNIFIL) of 75 per cent of the allegations at the time.

(b) Some 5 per cent of the allegations do not constitute a violation of resolution 1701 (2006).

(c) Some 20 per cent of the allegations have not been verified by the Lebanese Army.

Israeli allegations, such as those mentioned above, are discussed at the tripartite meetings that are held at Ra's al-Naqurah. They are not comparable to the violations that Israel commits of the sovereignty of Lebanon. Those violations include ongoing air and sea violations, pursuing and attempting to abduct shepherds whenever they come near the line of withdrawal, pointing weapons and tank cannons towards Lebanese civilians, Lebanese Army patrols and UNIFIL troops, and the ongoing occupation of the northern part of Ghajar town, the Shab'a Farms, the Kafr Shuba heights, Jabal al-Shaykh and Lebanese territory along the Blue Line. Israel has even gone so far as to build a border wall and threatened to extend it into areas to which a claim is maintained. The Israeli enemy also claims that it owns oil bloc No. 9.

You are kindly requested to inform the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations of the above, so that it can respond to the allegations made by the Israeli enemy and raise the issue in international forums.

(*Signed*) Ya'qub Riyad **al-Sarraf**
Minister of National Defence